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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/038,072	01/04/2002	Atsushi Masuda	9281-4242	7988

7590 11/22/2002
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EXAMINER	
GONZALEZ, JULIO C	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

2834

DATE MAILED: 11/22/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	10/038,072	Applicant(s)	MASUDA, ATSUSHI
Examiner	Julio C. Gonzalez	Art Unit	2834

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 September 2002.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 1 and 3-8 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 2 and 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 6) Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 2 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakuragi et al in view of Oku.

Sakuragi et al discloses a motor device comprising a base, a bearing unit (see figure 1), a core unit 6 including cores which extend from the bearing unit, a shaft comprising two ends, a shaft supporter having a cylindrical shaft (see figure 1) which rotatably supports the rotational shaft supporter along the upper face of the base. Also, Sakuragi discloses a positioning member fixed on the base (see figure 3) and a supporting member 9a formed integrally with the positioning member and extending along the upper face of the base.

However, Sakuragi et al does not disclose a flange having an inclined upper surface.

On the other hand, Oku discloses for the purpose of reducing the mis-alignment due to tilting of a rotor, a flange 110 having an upper inclined surface with respect to the bottom surface of the base (see figure 12).

Sakuragi et al and Oku teach inherently that the bearings may be made of metal since it is commonly known in the art that bearings are made of metals.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to design a motor as disclosed by Sakuragi and to modify the invention by using a flange with an inclined surface for the purpose of reducing the mis-alignment due to tilting of a rotor as disclosed by Oku.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 09/18/02 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

According to the Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, a flange is a rib, or rim for strength, for guiding, or for attachment to another object, a projecting edge. There is no physical structure disclosed in claim 2 describing a flange as disclosed by the present invention, only an individual "flange attached to a bearing" and the flange having a bottom surface and an upper surface. Sakuragi et al (see figures 1, 3, 6) and Oku (figures 11, 12) clearly disclose rib/rim for support or guiding or attachment.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1 and 3-8 are allowed.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

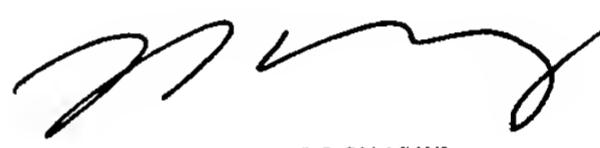
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julio C. Gonzalez whose telephone number is (703) 305-1563. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8AM-5PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nestor Ramirez can be reached on (703) 308-1371. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Jcg


JCG
JULIA C. GARCIA
EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2834
TELEPHONE (703) 308-0956

November 19, 2002